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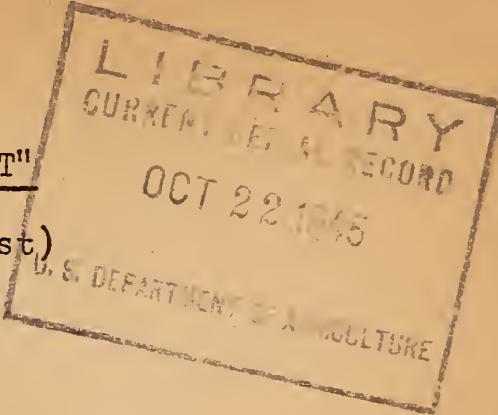
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Marketing Services
60 Beaver St.
New York 4, N. Y.

"THE AGRICULTURAL FRONT"

(For Immediate Broadcast)

August...1945



It's August on the Agricultural Front. And though the damp weather has been very nearly fulfilling St. Swithin's prophecy, there's plenty of interesting farm news this month. First, I want to tell you a few facts about farm safety and the lamb and mutton subsidy program. There's some excellent news about sugar...and then I have some tips for you on treating blight in garden crops...and preventing mildew in the house.

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National Farm Safety week is several days behind us now...but that's no reason to forget farm safety rules. Actual statistics tell us that the economic loss from accidents of all kinds to farm people is nearly one billion dollars a year. And that's a figure that should certainly be whittled down.

According to surveys made on the nation's farms, the greatest number of accidents occurred during the oiling, unclogging or adjusting of moving farm machinery. The next commonest group of accidents were caused by livestock...by the startled horse or bull that everyone thought was tame.

The recorded accidents to farm workers are three times as serious as those to factory workers. Yet safety engineers tell us that 98 percent of all farm accidents could be prevented. And 97 percent of all farm fires could be forestalled with a little care.

Farmers can be their own safety engineers. And working with a three-point program, it should be simple to cut down farm accidents considerably. Those three points are...first, learning to locate and recognize the accident hazards on a farm. Second, correcting or removing those hazards whenever possible. And third, learning to work and live safely with those hazards which can't be removed or corrected.

Actually, greater farm safety depends upon knowing the best and most careful way of doing a job...and of using each piece of equipment. So make sure to check regularly on the accident hazards on your farm....to eliminate them whenever possible... and to approach them with care wherever they can't be eliminated.

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And now, here's some recent and interesting news on lambs. On July 27th, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson announced, in effect, that lambs are being gathered in the subsidy fold. Under this new subsidy program, the payments will be effective on sheep and lambs marketed on or after August 5, 1945....and through June 30th, 1946. The program is designed to increase lamb and mutton supplies by helping producers to meet increased costs through Commodity Credit Corporation Payments to growers and feeders.

The CCC payments to those selling sheep and lambs to authorized slaughterers will range from \$1.50 to \$2.50 a hundredweight for lambs weighing 65 to 90 pounds; and they run from \$2.15 to \$3.15 for lambs over 90 pounds. The payments will be one dollar per hundredweight for all other sheep and lambs.

At the same time as the subsidy payments were announced, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation announced the withdrawal of the slaughter's subsidy of 95 cents per hundredweight which is now paid for all sheep and lambs slaughtered in authorized plants. These payments will be withdrawn on any slaughter performed on or after August 5th.

Secretary Anderson announced that the chief aims of the new program are first, to encourage the raising and feeding of lambs to heavier weights; second, to bring about a more normal seasonal distribution in lamb marketing; third, to divert more market lambs into legitimate slaughter channels; and last, to help producers meet increased costs without increasing consumer prices on lamb and mutton.

The payments to sellers are to be made through the offices of the County Triple-A Committees. So if you would like more complete details on the lamb and mutton subsidy payments, request the information at your nearest Triple-A office.

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Canning crops are on the way...and canning interest is perking up. So here's some good news about sugar which should reassure you as to your pantry prospects for the winter months.

Following a reduction in the Army's sugar requirements, 40 thousand tons of that precious commodity have been released for consumers. And better still, most of that sweet stuff will be distributed in the states East of the Mississippi between now and September.

This increase in sugar supplies does not in any way affect the total amount of sugar allocated for civilian uses. That remains the same. But the amendment of the food order which controls the flow of sugar from refineries...and which allows for these 40 thousand tons...is designed specifically to assure a more even distribution of available sugar....and to supplement supplies in the worst shortage areas.

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Chances are the weeks of cloudy, rainy weather we've been having haven't improved your disposition....and there's an even stronger chance they haven't done much for your potatoes, tomatoes and other crops. For this is just the kind of weather in which mildew thrives. Maybe you know that disease by its more common name of "blight"...but blight or mildew, it's apt to be pretty disastrous unless you do something to check it.

Mildew is helped along in many fields by heavy foliage which prevents air from circulating freely around the plants...and thus provides the moist condition which is just what the spores need to develop.

From the Connecticut State Agricultural Extension Service come some valuable tips on halting blight on potatoes and other garden crops. The use of bordeaux mixture as a spray or dust is highly recommended for the spuds....but tomatoes, cucumbers and melons are injured somewhat by the bordeaux...so they should be protected with either a copper oxychloride sulphate spray, or a tri-basic copper sulphate dust.

Home gardeners will find it most convenient to get the bordeaux mixture or the other sprays and dusts already prepared, at the local garden supply stores. And of course, it's very important to follow the directions on the package to the letter.

The most important factor in protecting these vegetable crops from blight is keeping the plants well-covered with the spray or dust during the growing season...and especially during periods of hot muggy weather. This year, it's especially important to raise more and better garden foods. So do everything you can to protect your plants from the unfavorable damp weather.

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Unfortunately, mildew isn't restricted to the field or garden. In fact, it's a flourishing household pest in damp weather. So here are some pointers on preventing and removing it.

In order to stop mold growth, everything possible should be done to keep the house well-aired and dry. The air in a closet can probably be dried out pretty thoroughly with the heat from an electric lamp. Calcium chloride will also absorb the moisture in a closed room or a closet...but it must be renewed when the solid chloride becomes liquid. You can buy convenient holders for the calcium chloride. Still another measure that helps to safeguard stored goods is the use of the electric fan to increase air motion.

If wood work is attacked by mildew it needs thorough drying. A small stove or a heater will do the job for a small area...but if large areas are affected, it might be wise to turn on heat from the central heating system for a few hours. Then, the doors and windows should be partly opened to allow the warm, moist air to escape.

And now, just one more word before I go....and that word is GARDENING. Both home gardens and home canning are vitally needed this year. So to help speed the day of Victory along, give your larger, better garden plenty of attention until we meet next month on the Agricultural Front.

